

## **RUMSON RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Oct 16, 2013**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendance**

John Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. The following members were present: Chairman Lembeck, Chandler, Dengler, and Shanley. Council member Day was also present.

**Also Present:** Sarah Orsay, Director of Recreation

#### **Public Portion**

B Mahon asked the Commission to invite the youth Recreation participants, including the RFH Rowing team, to march in the St. Patty's Day Parade, which will be held on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and to consider sponsoring a Recreation float. She also asked that an Ad for the parade be included in the Town Newsletter, but Councilman Day indicated that the printed Newsletter schedule is under review by the Council due to significant production and distribution costs and given the ease and widespread use of electronic communication. It was suggested that an announcement could be placed on the Borough web site prior to the parade via the Twitter feed.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Lembeck called for approval of the September 2013 Minutes. Mr. Dengler made motion to approve, Mr. Shanley seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

#### **Chairman's Announcements**

Mr. Lembeck announced that effective this meeting, Greg MacGillis was no longer on the Commission due to professional and personal conflicts that made it difficult to fulfill the time commitment. Thus, with the announcement of Mr. Shanley's yearend resignation, the Commission now has two vacant slots.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Parks**

**Meadow Ridge** – Ms. Orsay informed the Commission that the MR workout area has been enclosed with a split rail fence and hardware cloth and the locking gate will be installed later this week.

**General Field Status** – As we near the close of the Fall season, all the fields look to be in tolerable shape, except for **Forrestdale Field**, which is in poor condition. The Superintendent of DPW, Mark Wellner, and Supervisor of Parks for DPW, Rob Anderson, and Ms. Orsay are scheduled to assess Forrestdale Field with the engineer next week.

#### **Programs**

**Basketball** – Basketball registration is underway, Oct 1-31, and numbers seem to be on track with last years participation.

**Soccer** – The Rec season ends for most teams on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, but the Rumson Town Tournament champions in each age division will face FH Champs on Sat, Nov 2 in the first "Tournament of Champions." The Tournament will be

hosted by FH this year and they have elected to donate all Concession stand proceeds to Friends of Molly Richards Fund. Molly is a young FH resident with an inoperable brain tumor and the funds will go to offset her medical bills.

**Flag Football** – The Flag Football season ends Saturday, Nov 2.

**RFH Rowing** – Ms. Orsay gave a brief update on the season, including a confidential incident, reviewed in closed session from 7:30pm-7:40pm.

Dr. Righi, Superintendant of RFHRHS, led a meeting open to all RFHRHS parents on Oct 2, to learn about a potential high school crew program. The parents were receptive to the idea, the RFH BOE approved sponsoring a Spring 2014 team at its October 16<sup>th</sup> mtg. If sufficient funds are raised by a new parent organization (anticipated to be approximately 50K), comprised of members from both RFH Rowing and RFH Crew, RFHRHS will have a spring team, launching out of Victory Park and utilizing RFH Rowing's equipment, etc. RFHRHS would have complete control over selection and oversight of all coaches and athletes during this season.

The High School requested that the Commission consider accepting RFHRHS non-resident tuition-paying students into Rec's Summer and Fall RFH Rowing programs, as they are also eligible for the spring high school program. The Commission will vote on this in a later session.

**Travel Soccer** – Ms. Orsay reported that the season seems to be going well, with most coaches reporting great progress this season. The season ends Sunday, Nov 17, 2013.

**Travel Basketball** – The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade season runs through yearend, with the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> taking place January – March, 2014. The oldest boys' teams have been beset with injuries so are down players.

### **Committee Reports**

**Basketball** – Mr. Bavuso had asked Ms. Orsay to present the concept of Rec basketball joining an intra-town league for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, similar to Rec Soccer. Currently, Rec basketball is Rumson v Rumson teams at all ages. It was discussed that this may make sense for older grades where the numbers can be thinner, but on the other hand it seems parents enjoy the camaraderie of socializing in the gym with their neighbors during winter Saturdays. Ms. Orsay suggested the Commission get more input from the community as a possibility for the 2015 season and the Commission agreed that it did not make sense to consider for the 2014 season.

**Flag Football:** The Commission went into closed session from 7.55pm – 8.05pm to discuss Code of Conduct Violations.

### **Special Events**

**Halloween Parade** – the Halloween Parade will be on Thursday, Oct 31, at Victory Park. The children will line up at 3.45pm, march at 4pm and end with a short concert by Yosi. Ms. Orsay is working with guidance counselor Jenn Crow of Forrestdale School to involve 8<sup>th</sup> graders in organizing the event and handing out goodies to children.

**Veteran's Day Ceremony** – the Ceremony will be held on Nov 11 at 11am at the Victory Park Memorial. Ms. Orsay mentioned that the Borough would like to have more veterans (and the broader community) in attendance. Mr. Day suggested several individuals who might be helpful in getting the word out.

**Tree Lighting** – the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

### **Projects**

**Defibrillators** – The AEDs are in our possession and one has been installed at the restroom at Meadowridge Park. DPW Superintendant Mark Wellner suggested we wait until spring to put the rest out given that the parks are sparsely populated in the winter.

**CPR & First Aid Training** – Ms. Orsay discussed with Police Officer Jeff Nixon doing a 3 – session Intro series of CPR, and a 1 session recertification course in January/February time frame.

**Fencing Workout Area of MRE** – DPW has fenced off the workout area of Meadowridge Park, including a latched gate and sign. It looks great and should deter children from using it as a play area.

### **Treasurers Report**

Ms. Orsay reviewed the Treasurer's report, highlighting basketball receipts YTD versus 2013.

### **Old Business**

**2014 Field & Facility Fees:** After researching numerous other towns with Green Acres fields, Ms. Orsay presented a hypothetical schedule of field and facilities, based on three tiers of users. The Commission discussed the classifications and associated fees and asked the Ms. Orsay do a matrix of what the actual costs would have been for various users had the fee structure been in place in 2013. Ms. Orsay will report these findings at the November or December Commission meeting.

### **New Business**

**Code of Conduct** – given the violations in two sports this Fall, the Commission reviewed the language in the Code of Conduct for completeness. It was discussed whether bullet #5: "I will not promote or permit unsportsmanlike conduct or engage in any other act that does not provide a good conduct to others," should include specific mention of bullying, hazing, or harassment language, but concluded the "unsportsmanlike conduct" was inclusive enough to cover this.

**Communication of non-Borough Youth Sports Events:** Ms. Orsay asked the Commission to consider a review of the policy that Rec only communicate Borough-sponsored events (i.e., wrestling, boys' lacrosse, Jay Dooley Foundation, Hoops for Horizons). Generally speaking, it was agreed that Rec should only communicate Borough-sponsored events, but it was discussed if possibly the Borough web site could have a link to non-Borough community events on a page that was FYI, but did not endorse the events. No specific recommendation was made at this point.

**Rec Commision Candidates:** The Commission entered a closed session from 8:50-9:00pm discussion of the current candidates for Rec Commission and agreed on its recommendations to the Council. The candidates had all completed an application form and had interview(s) prior to the RC meeting. Ms. Orsay will make a formal recommendation to the Council on the Commission's behalf.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9.05pm.

